

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 21, 2005**

Members Present: Carroll, Endres, Ennis, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Lardizzone, Magner, Newstadt, Spitzfaden, Timberman, Wasson and Webb

Members Excused: Thompson and Morris

Staff Present: Davila

Guests: Bill Holloway and Bob Grabus (BHH Architects), Bob Furman (DAS), Al Carter (SOS), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-DEL), Burton Barr (NARFE), Ralph Hoag (VVA), Stan Woodman

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Commissioner Carroll conducted the meeting in the absence of Chairman Thompson. Commissioner Carroll commented on the Memorial Day ceremonies at both the Bridge and the Cemetery. He introduced the new Commissioner, John Endres, representing the 40&8; he is replacing the late Reese Phillips. Commissioner Endres provided a brief bio.

**MOTION BY MAGNER TO ACCEPT MAY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY WASSON, MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Newstadt reported that the next Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) meetings will be July 19, 2005, for the Northern Cemetery, and August 16, 2005, for the Southern Cemetery, both will be at 6:00 PM. He commented that there have been a number of good comments about how nice both Cemeteries look. Mr. Davila reported that the new kiosk will be in place shortly at the Southern Cemetery; it should be completed by the first or second week of July 2005. A new lettering system is to be added to the columbarium and a stone front to the old columbarium at the Northern Cemetery. Next we will do the signage on the wall off of RT 896. If we receive the funding recommended by the Bond Bill, after July 1, 2005, we will have a substantial amount to rehab the entire facility and put in a new kiosk. There was discussion about the Cemeteries.

**COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

Commissioner Lank commented on Memorial Day ceremonies at the Bridge and reported that they are still searching for a speaker for the Veterans Day Ceremony. Commissioner Newstadt commented on the Flag Day services held at the Southern Cemetery. Commissioner Kitson made a request for the audio portion of the Memorial Day Ceremony from the Bridge and requested a certificate be sent to the keynote speaker.

**FINANCE AND LOGISTICS**

No report.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

No report.

**DAS VETERANS HOME UPDATE**

Mr. Holloway reported that the construction is right on schedule and they have gotten their first formal schedule, which will be posted to the website. Mr. Holloway and Mr. Furman discussed details about the new Veterans Home and discussion followed. Mr. Carter reported on the fundraising programs for the new Veterans Home and discussion followed.

## **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Commissioner Lardizzone reported that they are still waiting to hear about getting a bus and asked for an increase in State grants for veterans' organizations.

## **GROUNDBREAKING & DEDICATION**

Commissioner Carroll reported that the new groundbreaking date for the Veterans Home is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2005, at 11:00 AM.

## **MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS**

Commissioner Kitson reported that they have received some pictures. If submitting pictures for the project, he would much rather have them on disk, but if that's not possible, he can scan them. For pictures submitted; he needs the city, a street address preferable, and if the monument is in a cemetery, please list which one. He plans to post the photos on the Commission website, rotating them every 30 days or so.

## **PERSONNEL**

No report.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Timberman (DE/MD PVA) – Reported that his organization changed their name effective June 3, 2005, they are now the Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America. This will allow them to encompass Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as Delaware and Maryland.

Lank (MOWW) – Will not be meeting this summer; they will start back up in September.

Ennis (KWVA) – They had their Executive Council meeting last Friday, and he was officially installed as the State Commander. He wanted to thank the JWV on their efforts at the Sussex Cemetery program. The KWVA will continue to volunteer with any organization that wants to be involved with the Flag Day Ceremony. They meet quarterly and their next meeting will be in September. They will be participating in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in Smyrna.

Magner (AMVETS) – AMVETS will be having their Department Convention on Saturday, June 25, 2005, in Angola. Registration will be from 8:00 – 10:00 AM.

Lardizzone (DAV) – DAV Convention will be Friday and Saturday, June 24 & 25, 2005, at the Dover Sheraton. He will not be at the August Groundbreaking Ceremony but will find someone to represent the DAV. There was a young man who volunteered at the Wilmington VA Hospital and his name was put in for the Jessie Brown scholarship. He received a \$5000 scholarship from National Headquarters, which was donated by the Ford Motor Corporation. The Department of Delaware will give out a \$500 scholarship at our banquet; the young lady was an honor student at Caesar Rodney High School.

Organizations not available for the Groundbreaking Ceremony: American Legion, 40&8, DAV, and MOPH.

Carroll (MOPH) – MOPH had their Department Convention this past Saturday at the DAFB Museum. We have a new Department Commander, John Jones. The National Convention will coincide with the Groundbreaking. Commissioner Magner reports that the MOPH was selected to process in/outgoing veterans at Fort Drum.

Kitson (VFW) – VFW State Convention was June 9-11, 2005. A new Department Commander was elected: Mark Newman, and Commissioner Kitson was elected the new State Quartermaster. The National Convention is August 20-25, 2005.

Webb (VVA) – Asked Mr. Hoag to report on the Kent County Beef & Bear fundraiser in Smyrna, scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2005. They will be at the State Fair on July 21, 2005, for a full 10 days, and will have a food booth. They have a Challenger Baseball League picnic scheduled for June 23, 2005, for New Castle County special needs children.

Harden (WAVES) – Unit 10 in Delaware is having our 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary on June 4, 2005. WAVES National celebrates their 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the end of July. One of our scholarships went to Courtney Carson from Exeter, NH; her topic was “Changing Roles of Women in the Sea Service from WWI to the Present Time”. The second scholarship went to a young man in Montclair, NJ, Benjamin Norman: his topic was “Women’s Fight to Service at Sea”. They will not meet again until September 2005.

Wasson (DELVETS) - They had a meeting in June and they are progressing nicely on their renovation to their post and hope to have it completed in August.

Spitzfaden (MOAA) - They had a meeting this past Saturday and his chapter is extremely interested in the Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Newstadt (JWV) – JWV had their monthly meeting on June 19, 2005, and was happy to report that their poppy drive was quite successful; they made almost \$9,000. Unfortunately, they had a number of their cans stolen at the stores, but they are looking forward to making another substantial donation to the Veterans Home. Delaware JWV will have their picnic on August 21, 2005, in New Castle County.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Harden shared with everyone a flyer she received from the Delaware Small Business Development Center about a workshop being held at the VA. There was discussion about the programs being offered to veterans by the SBA.

#### **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Commissioner Newstadt reported that the New Castle County Volunteer Firemen Association recently met and took a strong stand relative to the possible BRACing of the Delaware Air National Guard in Wilmington. As a result, they sent a strongly worded letter of support to the Adjutant General. He thinks that would be appropriate for all of our organizations to do in support. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Carroll reminded everyone that there will be a Veterans Home Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, 2:00 PM, at the Commission Office.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**                      **July 26, 2005 (11:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:**                                      **Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**